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LETTER DATED 10 JANUARY 1994 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF YUGOSLAVIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to transmit, enclosed herewith, the statement by the Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia concerning the incident on the Yugoslav-Albanian border on 3 January 1994.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Dragomir DJOKIĆ
Ambassador
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

Annex

Statement by the Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia concerning the incident on the Yugoslav-Albanian border on 3 January 1994

On 3 January 1994, another in a series of incidents occurred on the Yugoslav-Albanian border, once again grossly violating the territorial integrity of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. In this incident, an Albanian national was killed in the vicinity of the "Krstac" border post in the Prizren area, because of illegal entry into the territory of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. Deploring this tragic event, the Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs underlines that the exclusive responsibility for the incident is borne by the Albanian Government which, driven by its aspirations towards Greater Albania, continues to provoke tensions on the Yugoslav-Albanian border so as to exacerbate the relations between the two countries and destabilize the situation in the Autonomous Province of Kosovo and Metohija and further in the Balkans.

In connection with this incident, the Albanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs released a statement shifting the responsibility to the Yugoslav side in a well-known manner in order to discredit the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the leadership of Serbia before the international community, while admitting that the incident occurred in Yugoslav territory.

The local Mixed Commission for Border Incidents met in accordance with the agreement between the Governments of the two countries on measures of preventing and resolving incidents on the Yugoslav-Albanian border. It was established that the Albanian national killed in this incident was once already captured by the Yugoslav authorities as he attempted to illegally cross the State border and was handed over to the Albanian authorities.

It is obvious from the statement by the Albanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs that the tragic incident is abused for an unprovoked assault on the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. Contrary to all international norms and standards, the Government of the Republic of Albania continues to make irrelevant its international borders with the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, which has been its practice with other neighbours with which it has serious border problems. However, the victims of such a policy deliberately pursued by the Albanian Government are primarily its own citizens.

The Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs wishes to recall that, at the recent session of the main Yugoslav-Albanian Commission for Border Incidents, the Albanian side undertook to control the border more effectively and to prevent any illegal crossing beyond the established border crossings which, in this particular case, it failed to observe and is therefore responsible for the consequences. For the above reasons and in view of the fact that the Yugoslav border authorities acted in compliance with the regulations, the Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs dismisses the unfounded allegations contained in the statement by the Albanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia has expressed on several occasions its readiness to normalize and promote the relations with the Republic of Albania and initiated meetings and talks between the respective government representatives on all bilateral issues, including the opening of new border crossings to facilitate communication, which was not accepted by the Albanian side. The Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia will continue to pursue its present policy, adhering to the principles of good-neighbourliness and peace.